

- Creation of core groups of professional with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.
- Creation of new scientific Departments/Organisations.

Science and technology cooperation on biotechnology

681. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and ASEAN propose to boost science and technology cooperation with a thrust on biotechnology, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the broad benefits that accrue to the country out of this; and

(c) whether this help will make Tsunami Early Warning System more effective, to control loss of life and property in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) An ASEAN-INDIA Working Group on Science and Technology has been set up under the aegis of Indo-ASEAN with a view to promote S & T cooperation. Specific areas identified for such cooperation include Advanced Materials, Bio-technology, Information Technology, Space Science and Technology, Technology Management and Science and Technology Popularization. During 1990-2000, R & D projects in agriculture biotechnology were implemented. Presently the cooperation activities are limited to exploratory missions, joint research projects, research attachment, joint workshops and training in identified areas.

Policy inputs by CFTRI on food processing

682. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the major policy inputs given by Central Food Technology Research Institute (CFTRI) regarding food, quality, safety, nutrition and processing on the one side and the effect and impact of such policies;

(b) the details of linkages with international organisations and the contribution obtained by such linkages; and